

process.

REMARKS

A Notice of Appeal was filed in the parent application, U.S. Patent Application No. 10/006,579 (hereinafter "the parent application" on November 18, 2003 and an Appeal Brief was originally due prior to January 18, 2004. Applicants have concurrently filed a request for a one-month extension of time to file the Appeal Brief in the parent application and the due date for filing an Appeal Brief is now February 18, 2004. Therefore, the parent application is currently pending and the present application is being timely filed.

The amendments to claim 1 involve correcting informalities and do not introduce any new matter. Therefore, entry of the amendments are respectfully requested.

No fee is deemed necessary in connection with the filing of the present preliminary amendment. However, if any fees are required, authorization is hereby provided to charge any such fees to our Deposit Account No. 16-1445.

Respectfully submitted,

Date:

Feb. 17, 2004

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